

**Allen, Dyer, Doppelt,  
Milbrath & Gilchrist, P.A.****INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEYS**

255 South Orange Avenue • Suite 1401 • Orlando, FL 32801

Mail to: P. O. Box 3791 • Orlando, FL 32802-3791

tel: 407-841-2330 • fax: 407-841-2343

[www.patentamerica.com](http://www.patentamerica.com)[hestevez@addmg.com](mailto:hestevez@addmg.com)**FAX RECEIVED**

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**GROUP 1600****F A C S I M I L E C O V E R S H E E T****TO: Art Unit 1645****Examiner: Richard D. Hutson****CLIENT NAME/NUMBER: 22201\_UT****OFFICIAL****TELEPHONE:****FAX NO:****(703) 305-3014****FROM: Enrique G. Estevez****DATE:****March 6, 2003****NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET): 4 (Four)****COMMENTS/INSTRUCTIONS:**

Attached is the following:

**1. Response to Restriction Requirement and Preliminary Amendment**

Patent application of:

Michael Blaber, et al.

Serial No.

10/037,633

Filing Date:

January 3, 2002

Title: Synthetic Nucleic Acid Sequences For 2,5-Diketo-D-Gluconic Acid Reductases  
And Associated Methods

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

**MICHAEL BLABER ET AL.**Serial No. **10/037,633**Filing Date: **January 3, 2002**For: **SYNTHETIC NUCLEIC ACID  
SEQUENCES FOR 2,5-DIKETO-D-  
GLUCONIC ACID REDUCTASES  
AND ASSOCIATED METHODS**

Examiner: Richard D. Hutson

Art Unit: 1645

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT  
AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**Honorable Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on January 24, 2002, please enter the election and amend the above application as follows.

**Election of Claims**

Applicant, with traverse, elects the claims in Group I for further prosecution at this time, that is, Claims 1-18 and 40-43. Applicant, however, respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction as to Groups I and II for the reasons set forth below.

**In the Claims**

Please cancel without prejudice non-elected Claims 38, 39, 44-48, and 53-58.